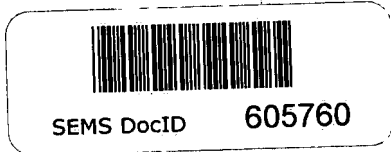


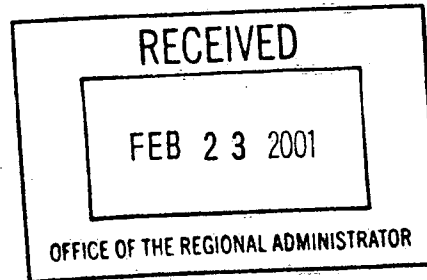


CITY OF SALEM BOARD OF HEALTH
Salem, Massachusetts 01970-3928



JOANNE SCOTT, MPH, RS, CHO
HEALTH AGENT

NINE NORTH STREET
Tel: (508) 741-1800
Fax: (508) 740-9705



February 14, 2001

Richard Chalpin, Regional Engineer
Waste Site Cleanup
Northeast Region
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
205 A Lowell Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Dear Mr. Chalpin:

The Salem Board of Health has carefully considered the issues recently brought before the Salem and Beverly City Councils regarding the migration of fly ash from the Vitale landfill site in Beverly into Airport Brook and eventually into Wenham Lake.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP, DEQE) have been concerned with the threat of such pollution for many years. Although the quality of the drinking water is still excellent, it appears that that threat of pollution has become a reality and considerable efforts must be made to ensure continued water quality.

Therefore, the Salem Board of Health, at its February 13, 2001 meeting, voted as follows:

1. To request that the DEP reclassify the waste sites (General Aviation, Casco-Nike, Vitale) as Tier 1A sites, thus placing their investigation and remediation under the direct control and supervision of the DEP. The Board understands that there is a point rating system. However, considering the presence of fly ash now in the lake, considering that this water body is the drinking water source for 80,000 people, and considering the decades-long lack of progress in identifying the problem, the Board is sure that the points need to be recalculated. In addition, overall coordination is needed of the efforts of the multiple LSPs involved including those from Ransom Environmental; Haley &

Alrich; Camp, Dresser & McKee, as well as consultants hired by the Wenham Lake Watershed Association. If these sites, having a direct observable effect on a drinking water source, do not compute as Tier 1A, the Board suggests that the classification system is fatally flawed and must be revamped or abandoned.

2. To request that the DEP require the removal of all fly ash from the Vitale Site. Given the past lack of appropriate protection of Wenham Lake from pollutants migrating from this site; the present discovery of fly ash in the Lake itself; and the future unknown ability to monitor continuously and consistently; the only way to ensure quality drinking water for the coming generations is removal of the fly ash threat completely.
3. To request that the DEP closely monitor all activities in the area adjacent to the Lake. The Board recognizes that there may be serious impacts on this drinking water source from other existing and potential land uses in the area. It is important to learn from past mistakes and not repeat them.

The Salem Board of Health invites your response to this letter, either in person or writing.

Thank you for your efforts and concern regarding this irreplaceable resource.

Sincerely yours,
For the Board of Health,


Joanne Scott
Health Agent

Cc: Stanley Usovicz, Mayor of Salem
Kevin Harvey, Chair of the Salem City Council Committee on Public Health, Safety, and Environment
Vira Leighton, Acting Regional Administrator, US EPA
William Scanlon, Mayor of Beverly

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